

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00317 151010Z

51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /121 W

----- 024799

R 150811Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2610

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: POLI AO PO

SUBJECT: ROLE OF MOVIMENTO DAS FORCAS ARMADAS (MFA)

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (MFA) GROUP IN LISBON IS REAL POWER BEHIND JSN; ALL MEMBERS OF JSN HAD TO AGREE TO FOLLOW DIRECTIVES ISSUED BY MFA BEFORE PERMITTED ASSUME POWER; MFA RETAINS VETO POWER OVER ACTS OF JSN; FA BRANCH IN ANGOLA IS PERFORMING SIMILAR FUNCTIONS HERE, AND NOW INTENDS TO MAKE ITS PRESENCE KNOWN TO INTEREST GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

2. MEMBER OF MFA/ANGOLA (CONSISTENTLY RELIABLE SOURCE IN PAST) HAS PROVIDED US FOLLOWING DETAILED INFORMATION. A. MFA IS GROUP OF MIDDLE GRADE CAREER OFFICERS FROM ALL SERVICES WITH BASICALLY CENTIST POLITICAL LEANINGS WHO "SINCERELY" WANT TO SEE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY FREELY TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY. B. MFA IN LISBON MAINTAINING REAL POWER BEHIND SCENES. THEY STAGED REVOLT AND ONLY ALLOWED SENIOR OFFICERS TO JOIN JSN UPON PROMISE ADHERE COMPLETELY TO MFA PROGRAM. JSN IS PERMITTED LITTLE LATITUDE IN POLITICAL DECISIONS, WITH MFA RETAINING VETO POWER. ANY OFFICER, SENIOR OR MIDDLE GRADE, WHO ACTS AGAINST PRINCIPLES OF MFA MANIFESTO WILL BE SACKED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 00317 151010Z

(COMMENT: THIS DOVETAILS WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED EMBASSY MADRID

BY SPANISH SOURCES - PARA 5 MADRID 2814.) C. MFA IN ANGOLA PERFORMS SAME WATCHDOG FUNCTION OVER NEW CINC FRANCO PINHEIRO AND INTERIM CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT HERE. NEW CINC, APPOINTED BY JSN, WILL BE PERMITTED FREE REIN AS LONG AS MFA BELIEVES HE ACTING IN WAY ACCEPTABLE TO MFA. IF HE STRAYS, LOCAL MFA WILL REQUEST LISBON MFA TO INSTRUCT JSN TO REMOVE HIM. D. MFA DOES NOT OTHERWISE WANT TO SUBVERT MILITARY HEIRARCHY AND WILL TRY NOT TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN PURELY MILITARY DECISIONS. ITS GOALS AND INTERESTS ARE POLITICAL.

E. LEADERSHIP IN MFA IS COLLECTIVE. THERE ARE NO STRONG-MEN (SIC). DECISIONS ARE BY MAJORITY RULE WITH WORKING GROUPS FORMED WITHIN MOVEMENT TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIC TASKS. NO MEMBER DESIRES PERSONAL AGGRANDIZEMENT, THUS NO NAMES ARE PUT ON THEIR PRONOUNCEMENTS.

F. MFA/ANGOLA HAS DECIDED IT IS NECESSARY TO EXPLAIN AND CLARIFY ITS POLITICAL POSITION TO VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS IN SOCIETY, AMONG MASSES AND WITH SOLDIERS. IT WISHES TO INSURE EVERYONE HERE IS FULLY AWARE OF ITS PROGRAM AND POLICIES AND THAT INTEREST GROUPS DO NOT MISINTERPRET MFA'S LIBERAL, DEMOCRATIC PERMISSIVENESS AS WEAKNESS OR LACK OF DIRECTION. MFA WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT NO ONE, WHITE OR BLACK, WILL BE PERMITTED TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE OR TO ATTACK OTHER GROUPS. ARMY WILL COME DOWN HARD ON ANY GROUP GETTING OUT OF CONTROL, PARTICULARLY INCLUDING WHITE SEPARATISTS.

3. COMMENT: PROVEN VERACITY OF SOURCE, COUPLED WITH BRIEF NOTICE IN MAY 14 PRESS THAT MFA "CABINET" HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN ANGOLA UNDER CINC'S AEGIS "TO CARRY OUT APPROPRIATE STUDIES (REGARDING POLITICAL CHANGES) AND MFA'S PROGRAM," LEAD US TO ACCEPT FOREGOING AS PROBABLY TRUE. THAT BEING THE CASE, IT WOULD ANSWER QUESTION BOTHERING EVERYONE HERE SINCE APRIL 25 - I.E., WHO REALLY IS IN CHARGE.

BRIGGS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, POLITICAL SITUATION, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, SELFDETERMINATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LUANDA00317  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740119-0757  
**From:** LUANDA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740546/aaaabows.tel  
**Line Count:** 95  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROLE OF MOVIMENTO DAS FORCAS ARMADAS (MFA)  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, AO, PO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005